

News From _____

U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd
West Virginia
Phone (202) 224-3904

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, March 11, 2009

**BYRD SECURES \$5.7 MILLION FOR OHIO VALLEY
MEDICAL CENTER IN WHEELING**

WASHINGTON, D.C.... U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., announced today that he has directed \$5.709 million to the Ohio Valley Medical Center in Wheeling, West Virginia. The funding will be used for the construction of a Children and Adolescent Psychiatric facility on land adjacent to the Ohio Valley Medical Center (OVMC).

“I am pleased to secure funding for the Children and Adolescent Psychiatric Facility to be built in Wheeling,” Byrd said. “Providing effective psychiatric care for children is very important to me. By directing these funds toward the construction of this new facility, my hope is that more West Virginia children who need psychiatric care will receive the care and attention they need.”

The new 36-bed facility would enable children who need care to stay in the state of West Virginia rather than being forced to seek psychiatric care in neighboring states, which puts an extra burden on themselves and their families. There is currently no mental health facility of this type in the Wheeling area – the closest that provides similar care is in Huntington, West Virginia, a five-hour drive from Wheeling.

“Hillcrest at Ohio Valley Medical Center has long been regarded as the premiere behavioral health provider in the Wheeling area and with a quality, caring staff, we look forward to a new facility that will only enhance the services we are able to provide,” said Brian K. Felici, President and CEO of OVHS&E/OVMC. “We offer our sincere gratitude to Senator Byrd for his faith in us and in what we do for the youth of our region.”

The new building will consist of two floors, with one wing for boys and one for girls. There will also be patient rooms, therapy rooms, a common room, and a dining area.

###